

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEMS STANDARD

Statewide Standard: Web Accessibility and Disclaimer

Effective Date: Legacy

Approved: State of Montana Chief Information Officer

Replaces & Supersedes: This standard supercedes any prior enterprise policies for establishing and implementing information technology (IT) policies and standards.

I. Authorizations, Roles, & Responsibilities

Pursuant to the Montana Information Technology Act (“MITA”) (Title 2, Chapter 17, Part 5 of the Montana Code Annotated (“MCA”), it is the policy of the state that information technology be used to improve the quality of life of Montana citizens, and that such improvement is to be realized by protecting individual privacy and the privacy of the information contained within the state’s information technology systems. [§2-17-505\(1\), MCA](#). It is also the policy of the state that the development of information technology resources be conducted in an organized, deliberative, and cost-effective manner, which necessitates the development of statewide information technology policies, standards, procedures, and guidelines applicable to all state agencies and others using the state network. It is also anticipated that State information technology systems will be developed in cooperation with the federal government and local governments with the objective of providing seamless access to information and services to the greatest degree possible. [§2-17-505\(2\), MCA](#).

Department of Administration: Under MITA, the Department of Administration (“DOA”) is responsible for carrying out the planning and program responsibilities for information technology for state government (except the national guard), including for establishing and enforcing a state strategic information technology plan and establishing and enforcing statewide information technology policies and standards. DOA is responsible for implementing MITA and all other laws for the use of information technology in state government. The director of DOA has appointed the chief information officer to assist in carrying out the department’s information technology duties. [§2-17-512, MCA](#).

Department Heads: Each department head is responsible for ensuring an adequate level of security for all data within their department. [§2-15-114, MCA](#).

II. Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an individual's ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. [Section 508](#) was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals.

In 1993, Governor Racicot issued a statement providing "assurance that state agencies will comply with the guidelines which require electronic and information technology accessibility" as established under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and in keeping with the spirit of The Americans with Disability Act.

The 2001 Montana Legislature passed HB 239 (now codified as [18-5-601 - 605, MCA](#)) to provide for "access to information technology for individuals who are blind or visually impaired..."

A. Resources

An excellent resource is the W3C's [Web Accessibility Initiative](#) website.

B. ADA Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights law that mandates the elimination of discrimination against persons with a qualifying disability. State agencies strive to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals to enable them to do the essential functions of a job. State agencies must also remove barriers to participation in state-sponsored programs, services and activities when necessary.

C. Change Control and Exceptions

Standard changes or exceptions are governed by the Procedure for Establishing and Implementing Statewide Information Technology Policies and Standards. Requests for a review or change to this standard are made by submitting an [Action Request](#) form. Requests for exceptions are made by submitting an [Exception Request](#) form. Changes to policies and standards will be prioritized and acted upon based on impact and need.

III. Close

For questions or comments about this instrument, contact the Information Technology Services Division at [ITSD Service Desk](#), or:

Chief Information Officer
PO Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
(406) 444-2700
FAX: (406) 444-2701

IV. Cross-Reference Guide

A. State/Federal Laws

- [2-17-505\(1\)](#) – Policy
- [2-17-514\(1\)](#) – Enforcement

B. State Policies (IT Policies, MOM Policies, ARM Policies)

- [2-15-112, MCA](#)
- [18-5-601 - 605, MCA](#)
- [ARM 2.13.101 - 2.13.107](#) - Regulation of Communication Facilities
- [MOM 3-0130 Discipline](#)
- ARM 2.12.206 Establishing Policies, Standards, Procedures and Guidelines.

C. IT Procedures or Guidelines Supporting this Standard

- [Policy: Establishing and Implementing Statewide Information Technology Policies and Standards](#)
- [Procedure: Establishing and Implementing Statewide Information Technology Policies and Standards](#)

V. Administrative Use

Product ID:	
Proponent:	State of Montana Chief Information Officer
Version:	1.1
Approved Date:	July 15, 2008
Effective Date:	Legacy
Change & Review Contact:	ITSD Service Desk
Review Criteria:	Event Review: Any event affecting this standard may initiate a review. Such events may include a change in statute, key staff changes or a request for review or change.
Scheduled Review Date:	July 1, 2013
Last Review/Revision:	Reviewed July 11, 2008. Non-material changes are necessary.
Change Record:	July 11, 2008 – Non-material changes made: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Standardize instrument format and common components.- Changed to reflect next review date.